

REMARKS

Claims 2 - 7 are amended in order to correct antecedent type errors discovered by the Applicants. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added. It is believed that this amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action mailed September 22, 2006.

Claim 1 is characterized in that one of the pair of cabinets has the front cabinet half segment thereof connected at an end portion thereof to a hinge mechanism and has the rear cabinet half segment thereof engaged with the front cabinet half segment thereof, and the other cabinet has the rear cabinet half segment thereof connected at an end portion thereof to the hinge mechanism and has the front cabinet half segment thereof engaged with the rear cabinet half segment thereof, that is, the one cabinet and the other cabinet have the opposite cabinet half segment connected to the hinge mechanism.

Claims 1 - 5 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murray et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,011,699) in view of Kubo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,633,749). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that Murray et al. shows in Fig. 3 and Fig. 4 a display-side cabinet 102 including a rear cabinet half segment 104 and a front cabinet half segment 106, the front cabinet half segment 106 having a knuckle 210 projected therefrom to connect the front cabinet half segment 106 to the hinge mechanism. Murray et al. shows in Fig. 7 and Fig. 8 a manipulation-side cabinet 108 including a rear cabinet half segment 112 and a front cabinet half segment 110, the front cabinet half segment 110 having knuckles 206, 208 projected therefrom to connect the front cabinet half segment 110 to the hinge

mechanism. Thus, both cabinets have the front cabinet half segment thereof, not the opposite cabinet half segment thereof, connected to the hinge mechanism.

It is respectfully submitted that Kubo et al. shows a display-side cabinet 10 in Fig. 3(a), the cabinet 10 including a rear cabinet half segment and a front cabinet half segment, but the figure only illustrates the front cabinet half segment. It also shows a manipulation-side cabinet 20 in Fig. 3(a), the cabinet 20 including a rear cabinet half segment and a front cabinet half segment, but the figure only illustrates the front cabinet half segment. Fig. 3(a) shows the display-side cabinet 10, which includes the rear cabinet half segment and the front cabinet half segment. The front cabinet half segment is shown having a connecting portion 31 projected therefrom to connect the front cabinet half segment to the hinge mechanism. The figure shows the manipulation-side cabinet 20, which includes the rear cabinet half segment and the front cabinet half segment, the front cabinet half segment having a connecting portion 32 projected therefrom to connect the front cabinet half segment to the hinge mechanism. Thus, both cabinets have the front cabinet half segment thereof, not the opposite cabinet half segment thereof, connected to the hinge mechanism.

It is respectfully submitted that, as described above, neither Murray et al. or Kubo et al. discloses the connection of the cabinet half segments to the hinge mechanism as in the present claimed invention, as discussed above in the characterization of Claim 1.

The present claimed invention has the feature that the one cabinet and the other cabinet have the opposite cabinet half segment thereof connected to the hinge mechanism, such that when the pair of cabinets are forcibly closed, with extraneous matter therebetween, any clearance can be prevented from

being created between the rear cabinet half segment and the front cabinet half segment. Murray et al. and Kubo et al. fail to have such a configuration, and therefore a clearance between the rear cabinet half segment and the front cabinet half segment can be created.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Murray et al. or Kubo et al. discloses or suggests the presently claimed arrangement of the hinge mechanism. In view of the above remarks, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Regarding Claims 4 and 5, it is respectfully submitted that although Kubo et al. may show a “projecting circular-arc piece” (near 31), it is not found on the front cabinet half segment, as claimed in Claim 4. Further, a “partial member” for forming a hollow cylinder is not found in Kubo et al.

Claims 6 - 7 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Murray et al. in view of Kubo et al. and further in view of Frohlund et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,421,547). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It is alleged in the Office Action that Frohlund et al. discloses the claimed circuit board in one cabinet, and a display in the other cabinet, being connected by a helically wound flexible lead inside the hollow cylinder formed by the circular-art piece and the partial member.

It is respectfully submitted that in the device of Frohlund et al. the display (4) and the manipulation means (5) are both located in the same cabinet (2). Component (6) is described as being merely a “flip” or cover for the device, which also contains a microphone (7).

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It is respectfully submitted that Murray et al., Kubo et al., and Frohlund et al. either singly or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the claimed invention. Therefore, removal of the present rejection is respectfully requested.

It is believed that Claims 1 - 7 are patentable over the prior art and now in condition for allowance. Allowance of Claims 1 - 7 is respectfully requested.

If there are any issues of a minor nature remaining, the Examiner is urged to contact Applicants' attorney, the undersigned, at Area Code (202) 659-2930.

In the event that any fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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